

# U.S.-Soviet Military Force Tallied

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Which nation is stronger militarily—the United States or the Soviet Union?

Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says "the U.S.A."

He thinks the United States is not only stronger at present but it should so continue through the 1960's "with concentrated effort and good judgment."

Grim new comparisons of strength are inevitable in the Formosa crisis.

A United Press dispatch from Moscow Sept. 25 quotes diplomatic sources there as considering "the current crisis to be the most critical the world has faced since 1945."

It reports "a mood of pessimism unparalleled since World War II."

Military strength, even if not employed, is important in diplomacy as representing national potential. Is there if force is needed.

The nation with the big stick is listened to. At present who has the bigger stick, the U.S.A. or the U.S.S.R.?

## Losing Lead

A report published by the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, Jan. 5, 1958, put the United States ahead. But this might not continue, it declared.

"It appears the United States is rapidly losing its lead over the U.S.S.R. in the military race. For perhaps the next two years, we still possess a superiority in strategic striking power, and any Soviet attack on us would meet a crushing reply."

"The United States' position 'a year or two hence,' it said, depends on other matters. "Unless present trends are reversed, the world balance of power will shift in favor of the Soviet bloc."

A second report compiled by a group whose original chairman was H. Rowan Gaither of the Ford Foundation, has not been published. Details of it were leaked to the press, however. This followed a gathering at the residence of William C. Foster, former Undersecretary of Defense, called for the purpose of getting Vice-President Richard M. Nixon know what was considered to be a grave situation.

The United States and the Soviet Union were put down as about equal in ballistic missiles as of the summer of 1957—13 months ago.

President Eisenhower has steadily taken a reassuring view.

With the exception of Mr. Nixon, the President and top White House officials, initially minimized the military importance of the Soviet sputniks of last October and November.

Of the broad state picture Mr. Eisenhower reported:

"I think over-all we have no reason to believe that we are not doing anything that human science and brains and resources can do to keep our position in proper posture."

The Eisenhower statement was made in connection with the resignation of the Special Assistant Air Force Secretary for Missiles, Trevor Gardner, Feb. 19, 1958. Mr. Gardner resigned in protest against what he considered lack of energy in the air power and missile program.

## Missile-Lag Period

This year Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, chief of the Army's research and development, resigned. In his book "War and Peace in the Space Age," published last month, he declares:

"Furthermore, while Russia even now has an intercontinental ballistic missile, several years will have passed before we have an ICBM capability of any significance."

"In short, we are now entering a missile-lag period in which the Soviets will have a steadily increasing ICBM striking capability which we will be unable to match for several years. We are in mortal danger and the missile lag portends trouble of a serious nature."

Congressional opinion is divided, but anxiety is evident. Senate administration spokesman Leverett Saltonstall (R) of Massachusetts, in an exchange with Democrats at the close of Congress, reassured the nation. Senator William Fulbright (D) of Arkansas, on the other hand, repeated the warning he originally made back on Jan. 2, 1958:

## Comparisons Made

"The peril of the nation increases daily because of the way the incumbent administration has dulled and continues to dull the nation's awareness of the clouding intercontinental ones."

Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev has rattled the safer with increased arrogance since the sputniks. These have undoubtedly raised Soviet prestige in smaller countries. In the Lebanon crisis, Mr. Khrushchev said menacingly:

"The Soviet Union possesses atomic and hydrogen bombs; an Air Force and a Navy, plus bal-

listic missiles of all types, including intercontinental ones."

How do the two nations compare? Here are recent unofficial estimates.

Land forces: United States — 17 divisions; U.S.S.R. about 175 divisions.

Sea: The United States has superiority in aircraft carriers, cruisers, and destroyers; the U.S.S.R. has around 600 submarines to some 200 United States submarines, including two with atomic power. The Soviet submarine weapon is the "Comet" supersonic missile, with range placed at 700 miles.

[Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen W. Dulles and Dr. Herbert Scoville, director of the CIA's office of scientific intelligence, reportedly told the Senate preparedness subcommittee, Nov. 27, 1957, that United States cities within 500 miles of the coast were vulnerable to H-bomb-carrying missiles that could be launched from Soviet submarines.]

Air: United States jets number around 9,500; U.S.S.R.'s believed to number more than 1,000. (United States strategy is based on atomic retaliatory power of the Strategic Air Command's long-range bombers, a portion of which are airborne at all times.) The United States outranks the Soviets in medium bombers; the Soviets are ahead in intercontinental jet bombers.

Nuclear power: The Soviet Union is believed to have about caught up with the original United States lead.

Atomic rocket engine: The four United States satellites weighed only 103.05 pounds; the three Soviet satellites weighed 4,227.53 pounds. Soviet rocket engine is declared to have 820,-



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000-pound thrust; United States engine so far around 3,000 pounds.

The foregoing figures, particularly in missiles, are not comforting.

Dr. Werner von Braun, United States missile expert, declares it will take five years for the United States to catch up with Soviet missiles.

Walter Dillman and Scottie, testifying in executive session, reportedly told senators that all United States air bases in Europe and Africa are within range of Soviet intermediate range ballistic missiles.